

Patent

Attorney Docket No.:AGP-32578(1) (formerly 362.017)

**REMARKS****Response to Restriction Requirement**

The claims have been restricted to three groups as follows:

Group I, claims 1-18 drawn to method of feeding specific *Lactobacillus* to an animal, classified in class 424, subclass 93.45, for example.

Group II, claims 19-35 drawn to *Lactobacillus* strains and compositions thereof classified in class 435, subclass 252.9, for example.

Group III, claims 36-39 drawn to process of producing a direct fed microbial by culturing *Lactobacillus* strains, classified in class 435, subclass 169, for example.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group II.

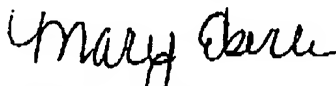
**CONCLUSION**

The Director is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2053 for the fee associated with a two-month extension, which the Applicants hereby request. No other fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2053.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to give early and favorable consideration to this Response, and then to allow the claims and forward the application to allowance.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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